

## The Journal and Courier

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## Notice.

We cannot accept anonymous or return rejected communications. In all cases the name of the writer will be required, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It cost \$80,000 to collect \$77,000 of the illegal income tax and only half of that collected has been returned.

A girl baby born the other day in Kakamo, Indiana, is the fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter, a record which is thought to be unprecedented.

There is complaint in Mississippi that justice is too slow in its operations and it is agreed that the slowness of it helps to make lynching justifiable. But at Jackson, Mississippi, last week, three men were sentenced to state prison for life for murder just seven days after the crime was committed. The killing in this case was deliberate, and in six days the guilty parties had been indicted by the grand jury. On the seventh they pleaded guilty and received their sentences.

Assuming that it is now certain that we are to have the largest corn crop that we ever had this year, the aggregate yield running up pretty close to twenty-five hundred million bushels, the statisticians are beginning to figure out its money value to the farmers. This is not an easy task, because prices are almost constantly fluctuating, and it is impossible to know until after the crop is all harvested and sold what the average price per bushel may be. At the present market price of December corn the prospective yield would be worth about \$768,000,000, and to that sum must be added the value of the stalks for fodder and other purposes, estimated to be, at a minimum, about \$50,000,000, making the total worth of the crop \$1,018,000,000.

An award of \$50 damages has just been made by a London jury in favor of a hotel keeper because his house is described in "Baedeker" as "second-class," and conducted by a man who whom it is advisable to make a bargain before accepting of his hospitality. The plaintiff, a man named Howard, who described himself as a British subject, born of Maltese parents in Syria, owns hotels at Jaffa and Jerusalem, and is also in the habit of "personally conducting" parties of tourists over Palestine and up the Nile. The guidebook people insisted that they meant nothing offensive by "second-class," and proved that many very good houses of entertainment came within that category, but the advice as to preliminary contracts they found it impossible to explain away. The jury decided that the phrase was damaging, and therefore a libel.

German experiments have confirmed the fact that there is a zone around fog signals within which the sound cannot be heard, a fact first demonstrated in the United States. A vessel steamed with the wind straight for the lighthouse from a distance of 4 1/2 miles; at 2 1/2 miles the sound was heard faintly, and suddenly increased in loudness at 2 1/4 miles, retaining the same intensity up to 2 miles. Then it grew fainter; from 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 it could scarcely be heard, but then became so loud that it seemed near at hand. At half a mile the sound disappeared entirely and was heard again at a quarter of a mile, increasing up to the lighthouse. The same phenomenon was observed in going away from the lighthouse and on returning to it a second time. That is, at a quarter of a mile from the signal for a breadth of a quarter of a mile the sound was inaudible, and again at 1 1/4 miles for the same distance it could not be heard.

The shark has a bad reputation, but it is worth something when it is dead. A writer in the Revue Scientifique enumerates the uses to which the different parts of the shark are put as follows: The liver is found to contain an oil of a beautiful color, which never becomes turbid, and possesses medicinal qualities of a very valuable character; the skin, after being dried, takes the polish and hardness of mother-of-pearl, and on being marbled bears a resemblance to fossil coral, so that it is employed by jewellers for the manufacture of fancy objects, by binders for mak-

ing shagreen, and by cabinet-makers for polishing wood; the fins, independent of use by some as an article of food, are superior for conversion into fish glue, competing in this line with the well-known sturgeon glue prepared in Russia, and are used for clarifying beer, wine and other liquors, also for the preparation of English taffetas, and as reagents in chemistry, etc.; the flesh, too, despite its oily taste, is in some places eaten as food, and, along with the bones, is converted into a fertilizer.

M. Darenberg, a well known French physician and philanthropist, has startled his friends by arguing that the only way to deal with criminal maniacs of a certain type is to put them to death. He says: A criminally insane person is like a wild animal, and should be destroyed. The case of a copying clerk whom I knew in my youth will best illustrate this. The man had been in an insane asylum because he had, without the slightest reason or provocation, killed a neighbor in cold blood. His subsequent behavior in the asylum caused the guardians to think that he had recovered from his dangerous madness, and he was liberated. One day my father intrusted this man with a valuable medical manuscript, which had been lent by the Munich library. The clerk was to copy it, and we accompanied him to his own door in the Rue St. Jacques. We had hardly left him when we heard a noise, and, upon returning, we found a dead man on the pavement and the clerk in the hands of the police. Looking for the manuscript we found it on a stone, where the clerk had placed it before he stabbed a harmless passer-by to death. Of course he was again sent to the asylum, where, about ten years ago, he killed the director. I do not know whether he is still alive, but there can be no doubt that such people should be put out of the world. Formerly such people were chained, but our super-humanitarian principles nowadays prohibit this, although it would be quite rational. What, then, can be done except a revival of capital punishment? Tantrism is, no doubt, very interesting, but its phases should only be studied where it can be rendered harmless.

## SOME BOOMS.

The third term boom is not very conspicuous just now. The Whitney boom is doing fairly well. The Olney boom is not doing very well. The New York Sun writes as follows: Speaking for the Massachusetts Republicans, or at least for the Massachusetts mugwumps, the Springfield Republican presents the name of Richard Olney as New England's candidate for the Democratic nomination next year. In an elaborate article our esteemed anti-third-term contemporary sets forth the many qualifications which Mr. Olney possesses for the office of chief magistrate, beginning with his sturdy independence and rugged honesty of character and ending with his thorough knowledge of the art of eating dinner and of the game of lawn tennis.

A promising and well ordered boom is that which has the strong support of the Washington Post. Gray of Delaware and Matthews of Indiana is a ticket worth attention, says the Post. These two names have already been considered by some of the Democrats who are very close to the president. It is well known that Mr. Cleveland has the highest sort of regard for Senator Gray, while the latter, for his part, has always been a steadfast, in-season-and-out-of-season friend of the administration in the Senate. He would very much like to go to the Supreme bench as the successor of the late Justice Jackson, but this appointment is almost certain to go to New York, and, besides, the President will not decrease the number of Democrats in the Senate. He will need his friends there during the next two years. If, however, the President should suggest the name of Senator Gray as the proper Presidential nominee, that suggestion would go a good way with the administration delegates. Mr. Gray is for sound money, which would commend him to the North and East; made a gallant fight against the Force bill, which ought to place him in kindly remembrance in the South, while Matthews ought to be able to hold Indiana and the West in line.

This is good reasoning. Delaware is a rather small State to take a Presidential nominee from, but the Democrats are feeling small just now.

## STRANGER THAN FICTION.

That truth is stranger than fiction is once more illustrated by a story which comes from Sweden. A novelist who should tell such a story would be accused by the critics of doing violence to the probabilities.

Ten years ago Baron Von Ungern-Sternberg of Sweden was sentenced to imprisonment for life and to the forfeiture of his nobility title and rank for the murder of Count Brockendorf. The baron had sold some real estate to the count. After the transaction had been closed the count discovered that the title to a part of the property wasn't as good as it might be. He went to the baron's chateau and hinted that the baron hadn't dealt fairly with him. There was a violent quarrel and the baron turned the count out of the house.

In a few minutes he cooled off and started out to find the count and right matters. It was dark and he took his gun with him at the request of his wife, who feared danger to him from poachers. He had not gone far when he thought he heard stealthy steps amid the undergrowth of the forest, and with the object of frightening any poachers who might be in his immediate vicinity, he fired off his gun haphazard and without taking aim. Walking a few steps farther on he fancied that he heard groans proceeding from a cluster of trees right in front of him, and quickly approaching the spot whence the alarming sounds came he stumbled over the prostrate body of a man. What was his horror when on turning the light of the little bull's-eye lantern which he carried on the object of his search he found that it was the count. Bending down he hastened to wash the blood of the wounded man's face with some of the half-melted snow with which the ground was covered and was entirely absorbed in this occupation when all of a sudden he was seized from behind by four powerful arms. They belonged to a couple of gamekeepers, men whom he had but that day discharged in anger, owing to some dispute over the amount of wages due them, and who had received a promise of re-engagement from the new proprietor, the very man who was now lying at their feet bleeding from a ghastly wound.

Of course the natural inference was that the count had been shot by the baron. Indeed, the latter believed so himself. The count died ten minutes later without regaining consciousness. The unfortunate nobleman was taken into custody, the case against him being rendered blacker than ever by the testimony of his servants, who declared that there had been a scene of excessive violence between the two men and that after ejecting the count from the chateau the baron had been seen arming himself with a gun and following him into the woods.

In the face of such evidence nothing remained but for the court and jury to convict, all the more as the baron did not even deny having killed the count, but merely insisted that he had done so accidentally instead of intentionally. Against the acceptance of this argument there was, however, the evidence of his servants concerning his quarrel with the count and the testimony of the latter's lawyers with regard to the fact that the dead nobleman believed that he had been purposely defrauded. The result was that the baron was sentenced to the penalty above described. The baroness became insane on the day of her husband's condemnation and died a few years ago in a lunatic asylum, while their only son, a young officer of the crack regiment of the Swedish Hussars, overwhelmed by shame and sorrow at the dreadful fate of his parents, blew his brains out.

A few weeks ago a convict in the great penitentiary near Stockholm made a deathbed confession to the effect that it was he and not the baron who had shot Count Brockendorf. He stated that he was a poacher at the time when the murder took place, and that, having been unsuccessful in his efforts to obtain game, and, moreover, being rendered desperate by poverty and hunger, he had killed the lonely wayfarer, whom he knew to be very wealthy, in order to rob him of the money and jewels which he felt persuaded he must carry about his person. The approach of the baron had, however, frightened him off and prevented him from putting into execution his project of emptying his victim's pockets.

This shows what can be done in this queer world. Here is a case in which the circumstantial evidence was so strong as to convince the accused himself, and yet things were far from being as they seemed.

## FASHION NOTES.

## Fine Stripes the Best.

A seersucker that is a regular glorification of the ordinary sorts, is on the market, the puffed stripes being of silk-like brilliancy and separated from each other by bands of lace-pattern openwork. Dresses made up of this are deliciously cool looking, though, of course, they are lined all through. India silk is the best lining. Striped goods generally are in high favor and white, some are seen in wide stripes, the majority are fine. The beauty of the fabric increases with fineness of the stripes as a rule, and some of the hair-line striped goods are especially beautiful. A stylish house dress in a material of this sort is sketched here, it being of taffetas showing fine stripes of blue and white. Its blouse waist has a baggy front, fastened invisibly at the side and is cut away in the center and extends down at the sides, thereby imitating a jacket. The back has no trimming, and belt and standing collar are guipure. On the cuffs the stripes run crosswise. A skirt of such material needs no trimming, and in most cases is much better without any.

Princess gowns with sleeve puffs slipped below the shoulders and worn with befrilled fichus are a late innovation. The skirts of such gowns hang full in the back and flare without godets at sides and front. They are often arranged to hang open over a petticoat, or else two box pleats, one on each side, give the petticoat effect. Alpaca is the best wear in the world for bath suits. Almost all the suits of the season have been made with great sleeves. Nothing could be more fool-

ishly absurd. It is much better to have the puffs about the knees than at the sleeves, if you expect to do any swimming or to be able to manage in the water at all well. Besides, the girl



with handsome arms and shoulders ought to be glad of the chance to show such outlines unconcealed by the drapery the usual dress demands. While alpaca is much used for lining blue serge dresses and jackets, and for flannel belt covers and cuffs. This material wears well and keeps clean amazingly, in this respect being far more satisfactory than duck.

FLORETTE.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"Side Glances From the Colonial Meeting-House," by William Root Bliss, author of "The Old Colony Town," etc. The author adopts as his motto Ruskin's saying: "Side glimpses often bring home richer results than a broad stare." "Small facts," he tells us, "sometimes reveal large pictures of human life; they make the warp and woof of common history." These glimpses show us our ancestors in their relation to that center of interest, the meeting-house, and we learn much of their daily lives, their faults and frailties, their virtues and aspirations. Some idea of the interesting contents of the handsome little volume may be gained from the titles of a few of its chapters. "The Summons to Worship," "The Seating of the People," "The Comedy and Tragedy of the Pulpit," "The Poor Parsons," "Rum and Slavery," "The Simple Evangelist," etc. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. For sale by E. P. Judd Co.

"Heinrich Heine's Life Told in His Own Words," Edited by Gustave Karpeles. Translated from the German by Arthur Dexter. A word from the poet's own introduction to these biographical notes explains the character of the work. "I have honestly written," he says, "all that is important or characteristic; and the mutual influence of outward events and inward feelings will furnish you with a true picture of my whole self." A strange self it was, and a strange and troubled life. The record of it reads like a romance, and its closing words, from his last note to a friend, are: "Never was a poet more wretched, in the fullness of fortune, which seems to mock him." The metrical portions of the translation are as literal as they could be made and admirably convey the spirit of the originals. Henry Holt & Co., New York. For sale by E. P. Judd Co.

## FILLING.

Still Worse.—Bingo—I want to change the combination of that house safe of mine.

Safe Man.—What's the matter? Servants found out the old number?

Bingo.—No. My wife has.—Brooklyn Life.

She.—Did my voice fill the drawing-room? He.—Yes, and it filled the conservatory and garden—every one went out there.—Pick-Me-Up.

"The farmer said one of the little pigs was sick, so I brought it some sugar." "Sugar?" "Yes, sugar. Haven't you ever heard of sugar-cured hams?"—Truth.

"Jones seemed to be awfully mad when I overtook him this morning." "What's the matter, I wonder?" "Why, you see, I had the faster horse."—Chicago Tribune.

"You don't bring me as much candy as you used to before we were married," pouted Mrs. Darley. "No; I have to buy your breakfast now," replied her husband.—Puck.

Hoax.—Have you seen D'Auber's new painting? He calls it "Friendless." Joak.—Yes, it's remarkably realistic. I understand a baseball umpire posed for him.—Philadelphia Record.

At the Photographer's.—Herr Flitzinger (a skinkflint)—What shall I have to pay for the likeness?

Artist.—I'd rather tell you that later on. I want you now to look pleasant.—Kattowitz Zeitung.

Judge Gore.—How did the silver debate come out? Did the colonel carry his pint?

Major Bleed.—Carry his pint? Bah, the colonel never carries less than a quart.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Little Dick.—Miss Mamie is awfully shy, isn't she?

Little Dot.—Why?

Little Dick.—She has most of her clothes made just like men's, so men won't get in love with her.—London Sketch.

Von Blumer (earnestly).—Old man, you have no idea how much it costs a man to send his wife away for the summer. Plankington—I suppose not. Von Blumer.—No, sir! Since my wife has been away I've lost \$25 a night on the average.—Memphis Scimitar.

## PHILADELPHIA HAS TWO COBRAS.

They Come From India and are the Only Ones in the Country.

The superintendent of the Philadelphia Zoological gardens, says the Record of that city, is congratulating himself upon the acquisition of two Indian cobras, beautiful examples of their kind. For twenty years he has been trying to add a serpent to this description to the fine collection in the reptile-house, but cobras were not easy to get, and the single one that was shipped to the zoo some years ago was dead when it reached its destination. One difficulty about getting a cobra in this country is that most of the merchant vessels plying from India go to England before coming to this country, and any rare animals they may have on board are instantly picked up by the collectors in that country.

And the reason why cobras are so scarce is found in the fact that this snake is one of the hardest to handle in transportation. It is one of the most poisonous known, and is remarkably quick in its movements. There are few sea captains who can be induced to carry such a reptile. The two that have just arrived at the zoo were brought direct from India to New York on a tramp steamer and were then shipped to Philadelphia. Each snake was inclosed in a wooden packing box the size of an ordinary soap box, over which was securely nailed a piece of wire netting. The two boxes were then inclosed in a larger one, with a heavy wooden lid, with a few holes for ventilation. Only one of the reptiles was placed on exhibition.

In transferring a snake from one case to another, use is made of a long, forked stick, to which is attached a noose. This noose is drawn tightly about the serpent's neck, and he can then be moved with impunity. The cobra has a very narrow head, that might readily slip through the noose unless great caution is observed, whereas the rattlesnake and others of the snake kind have a broad, flat head and narrow neck, which permits a sure and tight hold. When the superintendent moved his charge he thought it proper to close the reptile-house to all visitors until the operation was over, in order to avoid accident.

When the house was thrown open again the new resident attracted great attention. He was seen to be about six feet long, with a beautifully marked body, growing darker toward the tail. He flattened his neck until it resembled a hood, and holding his head well in the air, darted forth his black, forked tongue in wicked fashion. He was very restless, after the habits of his race, and kept gliding from one side of his cage to the other, turning quickly toward one who made a sudden movement. It is said that the cobra never loses this nervousness, even in captivity.

## Fearful and Wonderful Answers.

(From the Boston Budget.)

Since wit has been defined by Noah Webster as "the felicitous association of objects not usually connected, so as to produce a pleasant surprise," may not the pupils of some of our public schools, who gave the following answers to their examination questions, lay claim to it? The record as here given is bona fide, having been read during the last week at the graduation exercises of one of the leading grammar schools of this city:

1. Who were the Pilgrims? A dirty, filthy set who lived under the ground.

2. Name a domestic animal useful for clothing and describe its habits. The ox. He don't have any habits, because he lives in a stable.

3. If you were traveling across the desert, where would you choose to rest? I would rest on a stool.

4. Mention five races of men. Men, women, children and babies.

5. Describe the white race and show that it is superior to the other races. A white man will not let you when he meets you on the street.

6. Of what is the surface of the earth composed? Dirt and people.

7. Name a fruit that has its seeds on the outside. A seedcake.

8. Name five forms of water. Hot water, cold water, faucet water, well water and ice water.

9. Name and locate the five senses. The eyes are in the northern part of the face and the mouth in the southern.

10. Who were the mound-builders? History cannot answer these questions. Science only can.

11. Define flinch and use it in a sentence. Flinch, to shrink. Flannel flinches when it is washed.

12. By what is the earth surrounded, and by what is it lighted? It is surrounded by water, and lighted by gas and electricity.

13. Name six animals of the Arctic zone. Three polar bears and three seals.

14. What is yeast? Yeast is a vegetable flying about in the air, and hitching itself on to anything.

15. Why do you open the dampers on a stove when lighting a fire? To let the oxygen in and the nitrogen out.

16. What did the Constitution do for the country? It gave the president a head.

17. What are the last teeth that come to man? False teeth.

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